
The author is mainly concerned to discuss problems of measurement in psychology and physics, with considerable emphasis on psychophysics. Of the nine short chapters, four are devoted to the theory of dimensions; yet there is no satisfactory formal discussion of how dimensions are to be defined. This lacuna is characteristic of the book. Its philosophical godparents are the writings of Bridgman, Campbell, and Dingle.

More than thirty years ago Bridgman and Campbell had interesting and important things to say. Serious discussions of measurement today must take account of the large mathematical literature on scaling in psychology as well as of the increasing body of literature on the foundations of measurement in the philosophy and methodology of science. The present book does not at any point satisfy modern standards of exactness and clarity. On behalf of the author it should be mentioned that the manuscript was finished early in 1948, but not published until 1956.

It may also be said in behalf of the author that he deliberately intended to write a relatively nontechnical book. Unfortunately, in the reviewer’s opinion, the result has been a book about which it is hard to be serious. It is mainly a pastiche of comments and random quotations from everyone from Bergson to Wertheimer. Moreover, the author’s partial endorsement of the bizarre philosophy of time of J. W. Dunne must itself be judged as at best eccentric.

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